

18 January 2022

Dear Parents/Care-givers

Happy New Year! I trust that you and your families have had a blessed Christmas and a great break together despite our current circumstances.

As you would be aware, the South Australian Government, in conjunction with SA Health, have announced some major directives regarding the recommencement of the school year. We have been working with these bodies through the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia and wish to outline how these directives affect our three schools.

Firstly, the three Tyndale schools do not start the academic year until 7 February, which means that we will only be affected by the current new directives for the first week of school. The Government has announced that, if the current trends regarding the virus remain as expected, school attendance (face-to-face learning) will return on Monday 14 February. We continue to pray that this may be the case.

Before I commence with the directives we will be instituting, I do apologise that they may come across as being rather punitive and lacking in compassion or care. That is not my intent. We are certainly living in very difficult and trying circumstances, and the new initiatives will impact our sense of community and connection. Unfortunately, much of this is beyond our control, but we will endeavour to remain connected to you and your children as much as possible.

For Week 1, as announced by the Government, the following directives will be in place:

1. Students in ELC, Reception, Year 1, Year 7, Year 8 and Year 12 will return to school and experience face to face learning as normal. The two regional schools are currently considering how to manage their Year 11/12 cohorts who are often in the same classes, and their respective Principals will be contacting those families shortly regarding this.
2. Students in our small learning support and Lifeskills classes, across all year levels, will return to school and experience face to face teaching as normal.
3. Students in Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 will not physically attend school but will receive home-based learning support. Our teaching staff will be utilising most of the week prior to school recommencing to not only prepare this learning programme, but also to make contact with families of students who will be new to Tyndale this year. **Campus Principals will be in contact with you shortly to explain how this learning from home programme will be out-worked for your child/ren.**
4. Vulnerable students and children of essential/critical workers will return to school and will be supervised by staff but will access the learning from home programme with the rest of their cohort. **Please utilise the relevant attached form if your circumstances require your children to attend school.**
5. Our schools will NOT be providing a hybrid model, where teaching staff are working with some students face to face and other students who are at home at the same time. That is an unsustainable workload for our teachers, and will inevitably provide disjointed and less effective learning outcomes. In that regard, families who choose to keep their children home when their

child's/ren's year levels are physically attending school will NOT be provided with a learning from home programme.

6. Parents and care-givers of Reception students will be allowed on property to support the transition of these students into school life, but will be required to adhere to all COVID precautions and wear a mask, maintain social distancing measures and remain in the designated outdoor areas at all times.
7. Specialist instrumental teachers and specialist service providers will be onsite and providing services to the students.
8. Pre-service teachers will be onsite as normal.
9. All students onsite will be required to be in school uniform – no casual clothes.

General changes for all of Term 1 until notified otherwise by the Government:

1. Other than for Reception and ELC parents/care-givers in Week 1, no other parent or care-giver will be allowed onsite other than when they are bringing their children to school or collecting them from school.
2. All parents/caregivers will be required to wear masks if they leave their vehicles.
3. All assemblies, chapel services, sports days, school sporting events, camps, excursions will be postponed until further notice.
4. No volunteers will be allowed onsite.
5. Students from Year 7 to Year 12 will be required to wear masks whilst indoors.
6. Students from Years 3 to Year 6 are strongly encouraged to wear masks whilst indoors.
7. Students will be required to hand-sanitise when arriving at school and periodically throughout each day.
8. Students will be required to maintain social distancing practices whilst inside.
9. Please DO NOT send a child to school who is exhibiting COVID-like symptoms. Any student who is sent to school and is deemed to be exhibiting such symptoms, will be sent home or isolated at school until they are collected.
10. The school community will be notified if there is a requirement for staff and/or students to either isolate or get tested, but we will continue to liaise with SA Health in this regard.

What is clear is that Term 1 is going to be disruptive to some measure. Again, this is very much beyond our control, but we are confident that not only will we manage the term, but that we will do it together.

Further to this, I need to advise you that across our three schools, we have thirty-two staff (twelve teachers and twenty support staff) who have taken twelve month's leave this year. At the time of writing, we have replaced twenty-six of these staff for 2022. We are thrilled that we have been able to find so many excellent staff to replace those who will not be here this year, and we continue to seek replacements for the remaining six positions. Each Campus Principal will be contacting you this week to advise you of these staff changes.

God bless



Mike Potter
Head of Schools